can be taken up 'by private sector and by Non-Resident Indians; and

(b) if so, what will be the Broad terms and conditions for executing these Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The policy with regard to the generation and distribution of electricity is regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution. 1956. According to this Resolution, the generation and distribution of electricity falls under Schedule 'A' category of industries, the future development of which is the exclusive responsibility of the State. The Resolution does not preclude the possibility of the State securing the co-operation of (private enterprise in the establishment: of new Units when the national interests so require. As per this policy, Government have allowed replacement/expansion of units in' the existing privately-owned power -utilities. Permission for captive power units is accorded where the power requirement is substantial and continuous and reliable supply is necessary. State authorities are competent to permit captive power plant$_s$ in the private sector upto a capacitv of 25 MW. For captive power plants of capacities exceeding 21 MW. consultation with the Central Electricity Authority is also required.

Gas found on Orissa coast

928. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gas has been found out en the coastal region of Orissa;

(b) if so what are the details in this regard?

- THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA)- (a) No. Sir.

(b) Dose" not arise.

Agreement between India and Soviet Union on coal industry

929. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister erf ENERGY b« pleased to state:

(a) Whether India and Soviet Union have agreed to sign a long term programme on coopernl ion in the coal industry;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the proposed agreement;

(c) wheher under the programme the numher of Indo-Soviet Coal Pro jects will be increased; and

(di if so, to what extent th$_e$ Soviet Union will assist lndia in regard to the Coal Projects?

THE MINISTER OF \ ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE); (a) to (d) India and Soviet Union have signec a programme for cooperation in Coa. Industry between the two countrie? over the period extending to 2000 AD. The programme envisages continuation of cooperation in the following areas :-*-

(1) design and construction of the projeci? already under collabo ration,

(2) development of Indian coal industry through the introduction of advanced equipment and technology as well as the latest achievements of mning science and practice,

(3) expansion of geological ex ploration and prospecting for coal in some regions of lndia as well as in prospecting for coking coa? ,in the southern part of Jharia deposits,

(4) continuing collaboration with Singareni Collieries Company Limi, ted mcuding elaboration of coal pro duction development schemes in Godavari deposit,